

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1. (currently amended) A connector having a housing (20) ~~with opposite front and rear ends and~~ at least one cavity (26) extending between the front and rear ends and configured for receiving at least one terminal fitting (10), a resiliently displaceable lock (30) provided on an inner wall of the cavity (26), the lock (30) being configured for being resiliently displaced by the terminal fitting (10) during insertion of the terminal fitting (10) into the cavity (26) along an inserting direction (ID), the lock (30) resiliently returning when the terminal fitting (10) is inserted a specified distance into the cavity (26) so that a locking surface (32) of the lock (30) engages an engaging portion (16A) of the terminal fitting (10) for locking the terminal fitting (10) so as not to come out, the locking surface (32) of the lock (30) being slanted to form an obtuse angle ( $\alpha$ ) with respect to the inserting direction (ID), the obtuse angle being oriented so that portions of the locking surface projecting farther into the cavity are farther from the front end of the cavity when the lock is not deformed.

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, comprising a retainer (50) for entering a deformation space (36) for the lock (30) to prevent the resilient displacement of the lock (30).

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 2, wherein the retainer (50) includes at least one pushing portion (60) for engaging the lock (30) to displace the lock (30) towards the terminal fitting (10) upon entering the deformation space (36).

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 3, further comprising means (42, 57; 45, 59) for holding the retainer (50) at a first position where the retainer (50) is retracted from the deformation space (36) to permit the resilient displacement of

the locking ~~(30)~~ and at a second position where the retainer ~~(50)~~ is located in the deformation space ~~(36)~~.

5. ~~(canceled)~~.

6. ~~(currently amended)~~ The connector of claim 1, wherein the lock ~~(30)~~ comprises a disengagement operable portion ~~(34)~~ for engaging a disengagement jig ~~(J)~~ inserted into the housing ~~(10)~~.

7. ~~(currently amended)~~ The connector of claim 6, wherein the disengagement operable portion ~~(34)~~ is inclined with respect to the inserting direction ~~(ID)~~ and has a greater angle of inclination than the angle of inclination ~~( $\alpha$ )~~ of the locking surface ~~(32)~~.

8. ~~(new)~~ A connector having a housing with opposite front and rear ends and at least one cavity extending between the front and rear ends, the cavity having a widely open rear end at the rear end of the housing and a partly closed front end at the front end of the cavity, a resilient displaceable lock on an inner wall of the cavity, the lock having a projection projecting into the cavity when the lock is not resiliently displaced, the projection of the lock having a forwardly facing locking surface aligned so that portions of the locking surface that project farthest into the cavity when the lock is not resiliently displaced are farther from the partly closed front end of the cavity than portions of the locking surface that project lesser distances into the cavity.

9. ~~(new)~~ The connector of claim 8, wherein the cavity defines an inserting direction extending from the rear end to the front end, the locking surface defining an angle of inclination with respect to the inserting direction of between approximately 100° and approximately 150°.

10. (new) The connector of claim 9, wherein the locking surface defines an angle of inclination with respect to the inserting direction of between approximately 105° and approximately 140°.

11. (new) The connector of claim 9, wherein the locking surface defines an angle of inclination with respect to the inserting direction of between approximately 110° and approximately 135°.